



Royal Jewels: From Charlemagne to the Romanovs

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A spectacular celebration of European jewels, from Charlemagne to Louis XIV to Catherine the Great.

For centuries, the wealth, power, and prestige of European monarchies was concentrated in the jewels that hung from their necks, decorated their clothing, and dripped from their fingers—often into the waiting hands of favorite courtiers. From the weighty encrusted gold crowns of medieval kings to glittering diamond tiaras of Belle Epoque princesses, *Royal Jewels* shows the full range of gems worn by Europe's fabled monarchs.

These are the dazzling remains of a lost era—when gems were powerful tools in the game of royal politics, and when the gift of jewelry bestowed far more than wealth on the recipient. Gems expressed court favor, strengthened international ties, and even symbolized the power of kings long dead and conquerors in the making. With over 300 exquisite photographs and edited by a distinguished team of experts, *Royal Jewels* is an incomparable examination of an incredible art.

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